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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/653,800	09/03/2003	Shintaro Oshima	1001-020	4534

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EXAMINER

NGUYEN, LUONG TRUNG

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2622

DATE MAILED: 11/30/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/653,800

Applicant(s)

OSHIMA, SHINTARO

Examiner

LUONG T. NGUYEN

Art Unit

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3, 5-9 and 12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 4, 10 and 11 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 03 September 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date 9/03/03.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
- Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Priority

1. Receipt is acknowledged of papers submitted under 35 U.S.C. 119(a)-(d), which papers have been placed of record in the file.

Information Disclosure Statement

2. The information disclosure statement (IDS) submitted on 09/03/2006 has been considered by the examiner. The IDS indicated the enclosure of the translation of reference JP 2002/6380, however, a copy of the English translation of reference JP 2002/6380 was not enclosed; instead, a copy of computer translation of reference JP 2002-259121 was enclosed. Note that the reference JP 2002-259121 (title: Source line debugging device) is irrelevant to the invention of instant application, which relates to image pickup apparatus with exchangeable lens apparatus. Correction is required.

Specification

3. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed.

The following title is suggested: IMAGE-PICKUP APPARATUS WITH REMOVABLE LENS APPARATUS.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

5. Claims 1-3, 5-9, 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Fukuda (US 6,742,941).

Regarding claim 1, Fukuda discloses an image-pickup apparatus to which a lens apparatus can be mounted removably, comprising:

a linking box (the portion of the camera which contains mirror unit 31, figure 3) provided with a lens mount portion (lens mount 6, figures 1-3, column 3, lines 1-6) to which the lens apparatus can be mounted;

an image-pickup device unit (CCD 7, figures 1-3, column 3, lines 7-22) that receives light that receives light that has passed through the lens mount portion and the linking box;

a main chassis (front chassis 1 of the camera where lens mount 6 attached, figures 1-3, column 2, lines 21-36, column 3, lines 7-22) that is arranged between the linking box and the image-pickup device unit, and that includes an aperture portion through which the light passes;

wherein the linking box is fixed to the main chassis, and the image-pickup device unit is fixed to the linking box (figures 1-3).

Regarding claim 2, Fukuda discloses wherein the linking box is fastened to the main chassis at a plurality of fastening positions (see figures 1-3), and the image-pickup device unit is fastened to the linking box at a plurality of fastening positions (figures 1-3); wherein each of the fastening positions at which the linking box is fastened to the main chassis is located at a position near or adjacent to one of a plurality of the fastening positions at which the image-pickup device unit is fastened to the linking box (figures 1-3).

Regarding claim 3, Fukuda discloses wherein at least a portion of the linking box is near a location where the lens mount portion is provided is linked to a linking portion provided integrally with the main chassis (figures 1-3).

Regarding claim 5, Fukuda discloses wherein the linking box is provided with a viewfinder optical system (finder optical system 33, figure 3, column 3, lines 62-67) and a mirror unit (mirror unit 31, figure 3, column 3, lines 41-56) that reflects light and guides it toward the viewfinder optical system.

Regarding claim 6, Fukuda discloses a focusing screen (focal plate 32, figure 3, column 4, lines 44-56) that serves as an image-forming plane of the light that has been reflected by the mirror unit.

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Regarding claim 7, Fukuda discloses a focus detection unit (focus detection unit 35, figure 3, column 4, lines 44-56) that performs focus detection based on the light that has been reflected by the mirror unit.

Regarding claim 8, Fukuda discloses the main chassis is a metal component (column 2, lines 25-28).

Regarding claim 9, Fukuda discloses the main chassis is a metal component made by press-forming (column 2, lines 25-28).

Regarding claim 12, Fukuda discloses an image-pickup system comprising:

an image-pickup apparatus comprising:

a linking box (the portion of the camera which contains mirror unit 31, figure 3) provided with a lens mount portion (lens mount 6, figures 1-3, column 3, lines 1-6);

an image-pickup device unit (CCD 7, figures 1-3, column 3, lines 7-22) that receives light that receives light that has passed through the lens mount portion and the linking box;

a main chassis (front chassis 1 of the camera where lens mount 6 attached, figures 1-3, column 2, lines 21-36, column 3, lines 7-22) that is arranged between the linking box and the image-pickup device unit, and that includes an aperture portion through which the light passes;

a lens apparatus that comprises an image-taking lens (a single-lens reflex type is formed by mounting the lens device on the lens mount, column 3, lines 4-6) and that can be mounted removably to the lens mount portion;

wherein the linking box is fixed to the main chassis, and the image-pickup device unit is fixed to the linking box, and the image-pickup device unit receives light that has passed through the lens apparatus (figures 1-3).

Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 4, 10-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to LUONG T. NGUYEN whose telephone number is (571) 272-7315. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, DAVID L. OMETZ can be reached on (571) 272-7593. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

LN
11/27/06



LUONG T. NGUYEN
PATENT EXAMINER